

GREASBROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Annual Report**  
FOR THE YEAR 1897,

—BY—

JOHN FRANCIS CHEESEWRIGHT,

M.R.C.S., ENGLAND,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
GREASBROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,

It is a matter of pleasure to me in again presenting you an Annual Report on the health and requirements of your District. The General Health of the District has been undoubtedly good for the past year; there have been fewer Notifications of Infectious Disease, and the Death Rate, if not lower than in previous years, is still very low. Amongst sickness from unpreventable causes, there is also a large falling off, and taken as a whole the sickness in the District has been much below the average. It is a gratification to me to know that the residents are taking advantage of the plentiful supply of good water, which will, I trust, help to maintain the reputation the village has of being such a healthy one.

As the District is small, I am obliged to follow somewhat on the lines of previous Reports, and divide my subject into the following heads :—

- (1.) Births.
- (2.) Deaths.
- (3.) Deaths from Natural Causes.
- (4.) Deaths from Infectious Disease.
- (5.) Infant Mortality.
- (6.) Sickness.
- (7.) Sanitary Work.
- (8.) Sanitary Inspector's Work.

TABLE I.—BIRTHS.

| MALE. | FEMALE. | TOTAL. |
|-------|---------|--------|
| 62    | 42      | 104    |

As I have calculated the population to the middle of 1897 as being 3,239, this gives a Birth Rate of 32·1 per 1,000.

TABLE II.—DEATHS.

| MALE. | FEMALE. | TOTAL. |
|-------|---------|--------|
| 33    | 21      | 54     |

The Death Rate for the year is 16·6 per 1,000.

This is a higher Death Rate than we have had for several years past, but it is well below the average of the United Kingdom.

TABLE III.—DEATHS AT ALL AGES.

| Under<br>1<br>Year. | 1 and<br>under<br>5. | 5 and<br>under<br>15. | 15 and<br>under<br>25. | 25 and<br>under<br>65. | 65<br>and<br>upward. | TOTAL. |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| 13                  | 6                    | 1                     | 3                      | 13                     | 18                   | 54     |

## DEATHS FROM ORDINARY DISEASE.

- (1.) Phthisis.
- (2.) Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.
- (3.) Heart Disease.

(1.) PHTHISIS.—Three deaths were certified as due to this.

(2.) HEART DISEASE.—Three deaths of persons above middle age.

(3.) BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA, AND PLEURISY.—These diseases always are responsible for a large number of deaths, 13 persons of all ages having succumbed during the past year.

## DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

- (1.) Enteric Fever.
- (2.) Diarrhœa.

(1.) ENTERIC FEVER.—One death only certified as due to this, and the same remark applies to the case of Diarrhœa, which occurred in a child under 5 years of age.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The Death Rate from the above is higher than last year, for in 1897 it was 4 per 1,000.

On looking over the certificates in order to try and find some explanation of this extraordinarily high Death Rate, the first thing that strikes one is the few hours so many survive; 2 lived one hour, 1 ten hours, 2 twenty hours, 1 two days, 1 seven days, 1 nine days, 1 fourteen days. In the majority of cases the deaths were duly certified, so that I am unable to advance any satisfactory reason for the great mortality.

TABLE IV.—SICKNESS.

This Table will deal with cases of Zymotic Diseases reported to me by Medical Gentlemen.

| Month.        | Scarlet<br>Fever. | Enteric<br>Fever. | Erysipelas. |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| January ..... | ...               | ..                | ...         |
| February .... | 1                 | ...               | .           |
| March .....   | ...               | ...               | 1           |
| April .....   | ...               | 1                 | ...         |
| May... ..     | 1                 | ..                | ...         |
| June .....    | ...               | ..                | ..          |
| July .....    | ...               | ...               | ...         |
| August.....   | ...               | 1                 | ...         |
| September ..  | ...               | 1                 | ...         |
| October ..... | ...               | 2                 | ...         |
| November ..   | ...               | 1                 | ...         |
| December ..   | ...               | ...               | ...         |
|               | 2                 | 6                 | 1           |

SCARLET FEVER.—As in previous years, the cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild type, and through the Notification Act early information enabled the Sanitary Staff to take such remedial and preventative measures that prevented any great spread of the disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Six cases were reported during the year, with only one death. No particular locality was affected, and in all probability the cases were all isolated ones, with no special cause for their occurrence.

ERYSIPELAS.—The same case of Erysipelas crops up each year, and I can see no possible good in your Council continuing to pay for that which is of no use.

ORDINARY SICKNESS.—So far as came to my knowledge I can safely say that the parish has been singularly free from disease during the year, which does not necessitate any further remarks from me.

SANITARY WORK.—I have regularly attended your Committee Meetings ; nearly every nuisance has been brought to my notice by the Sanitary Inspector, and in the majority of cases I have inspected the locality and suggested the proper steps to be taken to abate such. I have also visited at different times the Slaughter House, and although it is not a model one, yet I believe the owner tries to keep it fairly clean. The Dairies and Cow Sheds are in the same condition as last year.

#### SUGGESTIONS :—

- (1.) Flushing of Sewers.
- (2.) More Street Ventilation of Sewers.
- (3.) The keeping of Animals under more strict sanitary conditions.
- (4.) Paving or Asphalting Back-yards.
- (5.) More systematic method of removing contents of Middens and General Waste.

I think the recommendations for the year 1897 were suggested in my Report for 1896, but I think the refuse removal is certainly better than it has been for years past, but still a great deal of improvement is possible.

The Sanitary Inspector has had his time fully occupied during the year, and I believe tries to do his best. He reports 102 Nuisances, and had had 90 remedied. He has paid 225 visits to different parts of the district during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. CHEESEWRIGHT.